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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Underground POL Base at Lovech	DATE DISTR.	21 January 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	7	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		25X1

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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USAF review completed.

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STATE #	X	ARMY #	X	NAVY #	X	AIR #	X	FB #	X	AEC					
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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 22 Dec 1954

SUBJECT Underground POL Base at Lovech

NO. OF PAGES 6

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. In August 1953, [redacted] Lt. Col. Stanchev (fnu), a Bulgarian Air Force officer in charge of the construction and supply of fuel bases for the air force throughout Bulgaria, on an inspection trip to the POL base at Lovech (N 43-08, E 24-43). Stanchev, also a mechanical engineer by profession, came to the PRONO offices in Sofia three or four times a month to check construction progress and, thus, became friendly [redacted] on a professional basis. 25X1

Lists of Installations and Points of Interest

2. See page 4, an overlay [redacted] (Lovech Airframe Plt. Zavod 14), 0322-0143-25M, [redacted] which [redacted] pinpointed the following: 25X1
 1. Lovech, with a population of 15,000 to 20,000 inhabitants. [redacted] Stanchev remained in Lovech overnight before preceding to the POL base. Bulgarian Air Force officers and soldiers were seen in town. 25X1
 2. [redacted] where Stanchev procured horse-carriage transportation [redacted] air force officers and soldiers enter and leave through compound gates. [redacted] this [redacted] was an air force school. [redacted] seven to eight meters away [redacted] the front of the area was fenced by a two meter Paige-type fence. [redacted] 25X1

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3. A railroad which ran between Aleksandrovo and Troyan. It was single-tracked and carried passenger and freight traffic. [redacted] Stanchev arrived in Lovech on this line. 25X1
4. A railroad station, five to six meters high, brick, with ticket offices and small restaurant. No document controls.
5. A gravel road, five to six meters wide, with no sidewalks, little traffic, and no illumination. [redacted] Stanchev traveled on this road to the POL base. 25X1
6. An unknown installation. [redacted] this installation was connected by an underground pipeline (Point 9, page 6) with the POL base across the Osum River. According to Stanchev, fuel was delivered to this point by railroad tank cars and pumped into the underground POL tanks at Point 11. 25X1
7. A gravel road, an extension of Point 5. [redacted] (this area is not clearly shown on the mosaic) but it was level with the surrounding terrain. 25X1
8. A stone and iron bridge, four meters wide, 15 m. long, six to seven meters above the water level with 1.20 m. sides. An iron water pipe, 10 cm. in diameter, crossed alongside of the bridge flank.
9. Road, a continuation of road (Point 7), dirt, three to four meters wide; no vehicular traffic was noted; no illumination. Road led directly to the POL base. An armed Bulgarian Air Force soldier was posted at the road approach to the base site. This soldier detained [redacted] Stanchev until another soldier arrived to escort them to the storage area. 25X1
10. An old bridge of pre-war construction, enclosed by a wooden shed where consumer products were sold from stands.
11. POL site, during the time of inspection, the base was undergoing expansion. Two to three new cisterns, 2,000 cu.m. capacity, were being installed by Bulgarian workers under Czech engineer supervision. Prior to this time, the base had only four 1,000 cu.m. tanks. Bulgarian workers were employees of the Office of Heating and Ventilation Installations of the Ministry of Construction in Sofia.

According to Col. Stanchev, this base belonged to the Bulgarian Air Force and supplied fuel for jet aircraft based in the Lovech area. Source observed kerosene stored in one tank observed kerosene stored in one tank.

3. See page 6 , for [redacted] sketch of the fuel system and site layout of the POL base at Lovech. 25X1
1. Underground POL tanks built into the side of a 15 to 20 meter-high cliff. [redacted] estimated six to seven tanks were located there. 25X1
2. Pumping station, above ground, concrete, 3 x 5 x 3 meters with a flat concrete roof and an iron door. It housed two pump motors, 30 cu.m. per hour. This station had telephonic communication with the second pumping station (Point 8) across the Osum River (Point 6).
3. A shed, open on three sides, 4 x 2 x 2 meters, made of wood. It contained mobile chemical fire-fighting apparatus.

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4. House, 5 x 7 x 6 meters, brick-stuccoed, tile gable roof; used for guard personnel.
5. Post of armed air force guard located on the road approach to the POL storage site.
6. Osum River, seven to eight meters wide; medium current.
7. Road, three to four meters wide, dirt; it led to the POL storage area.
8. Pumping station, the terminal of the pipeline.
 this station was located across the river from the POL site and served as a reception point for fuel brought in by railroad tank cars.
9. Underground pipeline, approximately four inches in diameter and made of steel; it led under the Osum River to Point 8.
10. An unknown installation which Col. Stanchev said was a military installation.

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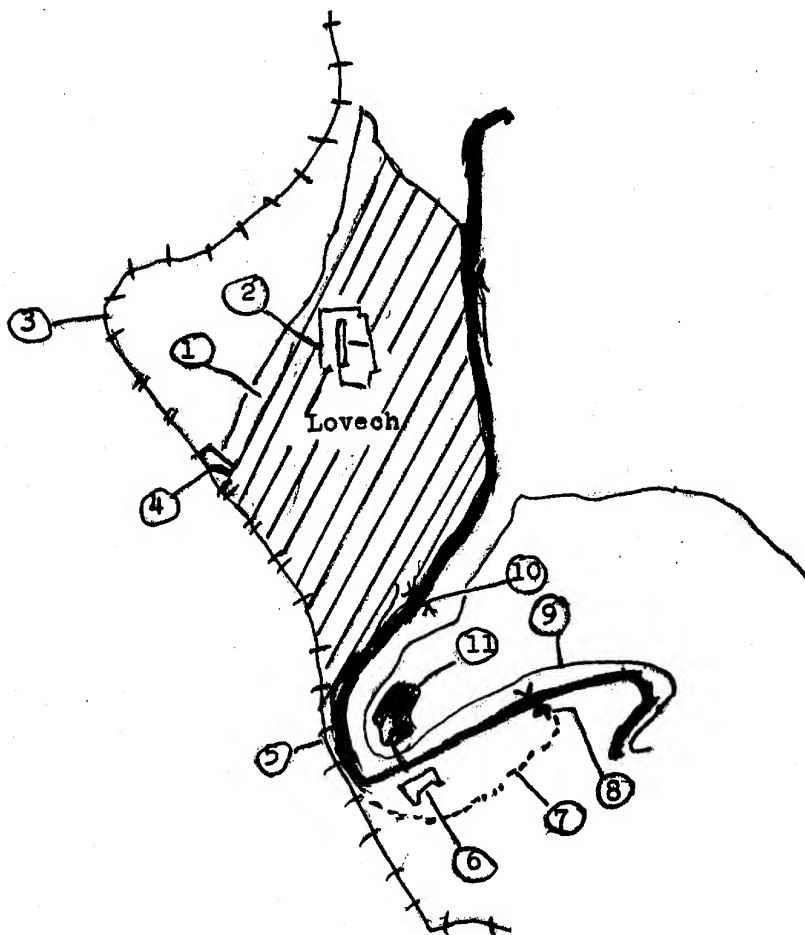
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Overlay of
0322-0143-25M

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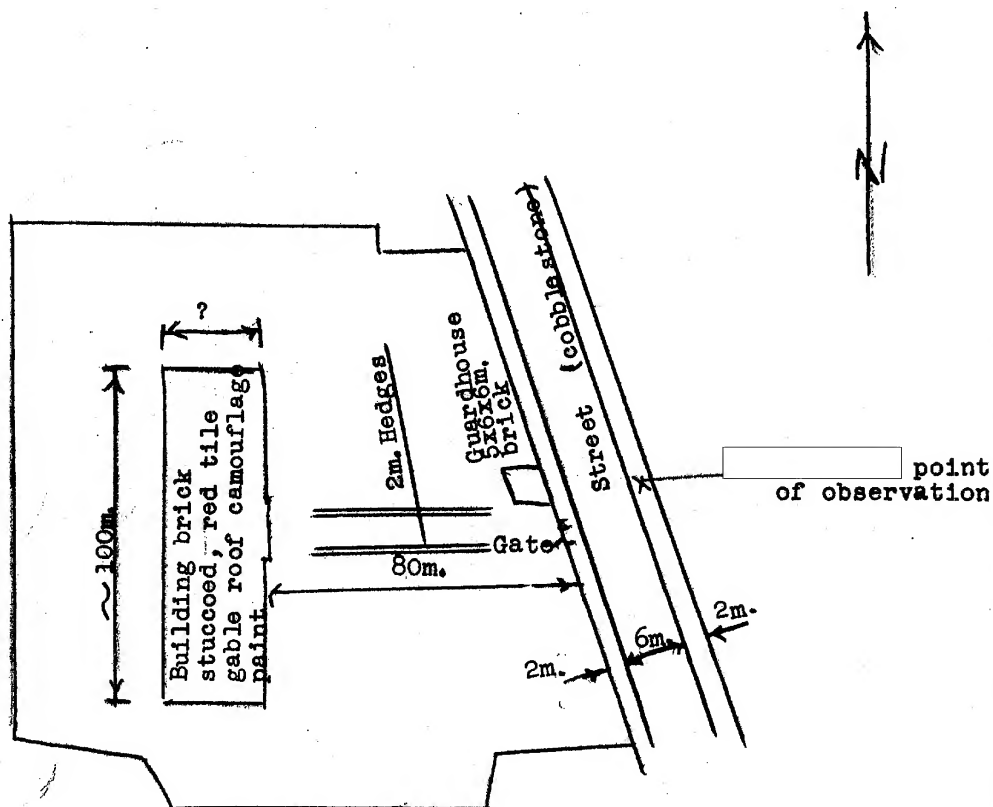
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Sketch of the Air Force School at Lovech (Point 2 of page 4).



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Overlay on 0322-0143-25M

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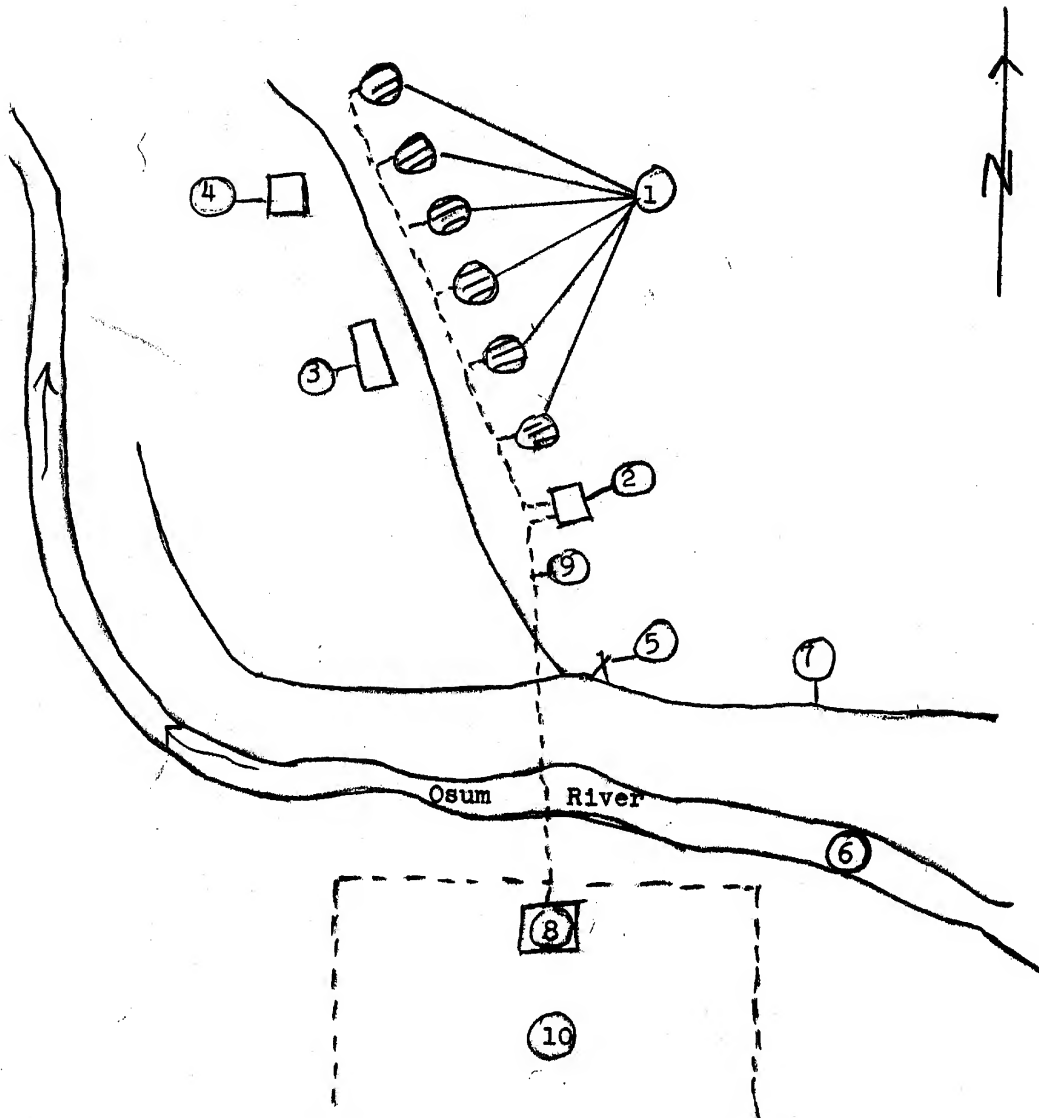
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Sketch of Underground POL Storage
Site at Lovech



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